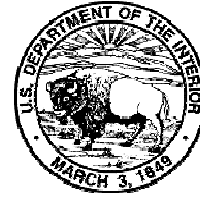


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Additional Walking Trails Open on Sacramento and Sutter Refuges

Additional opportunities for hiking, photography, and wildlife observation will be available again this spring and summer on the Sacramento and Sutter National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). Visitors may explore portions of the Refuges that were previously open for waterfowl hunting during the fall and winter. Now, visitors may enjoy the sights and sounds of the Refuges' wildlife, wildflowers and scenery from February 15th through June in these areas.

Guided birding and wetland walks lead by Refuge volunteers will be given this spring on both sites. Wetland walks will be at Sacramento NWR on Saturday, February 26th from 1-2 p.m. and Saturday, March 12th from 10-11 a.m. For dates on the spring birding tours at Sutter NWR or to register for programs, contact the Refuges for information.

Each season brings a new look to the Refuges. During early spring, a diversity of ducks and water birds may be seen feeding in the seasonal marshes. Later in the season, as water is drawn down, migrating shorebirds are attracted to the mudflats to feed, while wildflowers bloom in the grasslands.

To experience these awesome sights, eight in-ground concrete blinds as well as six miles of walking trails are available on Sacramento NWR. This area can be accessed from Road 68 at Parking Area D (approximately 2 ½ miles east of Highway 99W). On Sutter NWR, over six miles of trails will be open which can be accessed from Parking Area B about ½ mile north of O'Banion Road. The parking area is on the east side of the Sutter Bypass.

From the parking areas, the mowed and gravel trails can be accessed by foot only. Due to some trail areas with uneven surface, hiking boots are recommended. Dogs on leashes are also welcome. Those who would like to sit in the blinds are encouraged to bring hip boots or chest waders. Visitors are asked to register upon arrival so that Refuge staff may evaluate and improve this program.

These areas open each spring in accordance to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex's (Complex) Comprehensive Conservation Plan to provide visitors with opportunities to enhance public appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of wildlife and habitats. Enjoy the great outdoors by taking advantage of these free recreational opportunities seven days a week from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. For more information about recreational facilities and activities on the Complex or to view a photo gallery of the sites, visit the Complex's website at www.fws.gov/sacramentovalleyrefuges or call (530) 934-2801.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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View from the Sacramento NWR wildlife viewing trails. Photo by L. Haller



Wildlife viewing trail recently opened at Sutter NWR. Photo by L. Haller